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Guide for the Perplexed

EDMUND PENNANT

In Cordoba, starting from the tranquil
statue of Maimonides, red swastikas
on the walls, painted not in haste
but with a steady hand.

Whoever stroked these graffiti knew
day after day, Jews
from all over the world
would come here, stumbling
through the heat, looking for
the ancient Moorish synagogue
on the Calle de los Judios,
lost among the medieval streets.

Even in this evil, it is possible
to find some good. The route,
so devious and difficult for strangers,
is easy to follow now.

EDMUND PENNANT *teaches part-time at Adelphi University.*